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Historic Cabin Rental Interpretive Plan

Pike & San Isabel National Forest



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INTRODUCTION

The Pike and San Isabel National Forest and Cimarron and Comanche National Grassland (PSICC) Historic Cabin Rental Interpretive Plan guides the development and implementation of interpretive exhibits and services for the rental cabin program. Specifically, this plan includes interpretive goals, objectives, themes, exhibit and program recommendations, and design guidelines for interpretive efforts associated with the Historic Cabin Rentals (HCR). The recommendations for media are detailed on the Inventory Data Forms, which define the type of media, size of exhibits, and recommendations useful in developing exhibit plans (The Proposed Interpretive Data Forms are located in Appendix B). Future development of interpretive media will be consistent with this plan and evaluated against the goals and objectives presented in this document.

Planning Assumptions

This plan is based on a number of assumptions about the current and anticipated future use and projected management of these rental properties. The development of this interpretive plan is consistent with the PSICC Plan, 1985; the Draft Recreation Strategy, 2001, and the Draft Master Interpretive Plan, 2001. Significant changes in visitor use, or Forest Service policies, may require modification to this plan. The following assumptions serve as a foundation:

- The PSICC will continue to work cooperatively with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, recreation concessionaires, and special use permittees.
- Approximately 32 historic cabins are identified, but the current project in the proposed Historic Cabin Rental Recreation Fee Demo Project include the following eight cabins: Lake Isabel, Bassam, Roberts, Mingus, Rockdale, Rourke, Hutchinson-Barnett, and Woods.
- The PSICC through its partners will submit grant applications to the Colorado Historic Fund to implement the interpretive plan and begin design and fabrication for interpretive exhibits.
- Interpretive services will focus on identifying and preserving the historic significance of the site, meeting the special interests of user groups, and helping to augment local economies.

- The PSICC will work cooperatively with local communities, non-profit organizations, and other partners in developing interpretive opportunities, as appropriate.
- The PSICC will evaluate and monitor interpretive services.
- The PSICC will strengthen agency image and professionalism through greater design consistency in the interpretive media developed for the HRC. HRC interpretation will be a tool to educate the public about the Forest Service and the natural and cultural resources of the PSICC.

Existing Facilities and Services

The PSICC includes about 2.8 million acres of public land in central and southeast Colorado, and southwest Kansas. The PSICC has a rich history that dates back to its origin in the 1890s as several Forest Reserves. Included within the PSICC are many historic structures associated with early homesteading, mining, railroading, ranching and a tourism. Some of these structures provide outstanding opportunities for interpretation and public use. The PSICC has selected 32 of these historic structures for potential cabin rentals. The initial phase of the project involves the restoration of eight cabins.

Legislative History and Mandate

Forest Reserves were first established in 1897 to improve and protect the nation's forests and watersheds. "Use and protect" is the basic philosophy that prompted establishment of the National Forest System in 1905. This is reinforced in national forest legislation through the 1960 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act and the 1976 National Forest Management Act. Essentially, these acts charge the United States Forest Service with the responsibility to:

Provide a sustained flow of renewable resources – timber, outdoor recreation, forage, water, wilderness, wildlife, and fish... and administer the nonrenewable (mineral) resources of the National Forest System... in a combination that best meets the needs of society now and in the future.

The National Grasslands were purchased from private landowners under the authority provided through the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933; the original authority was expanded by the Emergency Relief Act of 1935. The purpose of these congressional actions was to provide relief to Dust Bowl farmers who faced bankruptcy because of the devastating droughts of the 1930s. The purchased lands were systematically reclaimed

and revegetated through the efforts of the Soil Conservation Service; the Service was responsible for implementing Land Utilization projects under the provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. In 1953, the Land Utilization projects were transferred to the USDA Forest Service. Forest Service responsibilities were broadened in 1960. The reclaimed farm and ranch land became National Grasslands and the lands were to be managed “for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish purposes.” The Chief of the Forest Service was also directed to develop the renewable resources of these Grasslands to the fullest extent according to the provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.

Today, the PSICC continues to provide timber, recreation, forage, water, wilderness, and habitat for wildlife and fish. While management challenges have undoubtedly increased, the long tradition of “caring for the land and serving people” has remained at the core of the United States Forest Service mission. This tradition is reflected at these historic cabins.

Historic Rental Cabins Provide a New Recreation Opportunity

As recreation use on the PSICC continues to increase, there is the need to communicate this history and the values and sustainable, ethical use of these remarkable natural and cultural resources. The HRC increases the range of recreation opportunities to the public consistent with the 1960 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. The cabins provide ideal locations to provide orientation, information, and interpretation. What were once deemed a nuisance and liability and usually removed, the cabins are now being preserved. A demand to provide an adaptive use as an historic rental cabin with associated revenues has been proven. See Appendix A for a description of all the current and proposed historic cabin rentals.

Visitor Use and Analysis

Approximately 7 million people visit PSICC annually. These visitors are potential users of the historic cabins as they become available for rent. The PSICC cabins primarily operate during the summer season. Few cabins are operated yearlong and the low use season is typically the early spring months. However, there are opportunities to operate during the off season. For example, the Boreas Pass Section House, an historic structure operated by permit to the Summit Huts Association, provided over 800 visitor nights during the winter of 1997-1998 and over 1350 visitor nights in 1999-2000. (In addition, the Section House received over 7,770 visitors during the summer of 2000 when it was not rented, to provide information and history of the area. This again demonstrates the demand for historical information.) Rentals on the Grasslands may provide another opportunity to operate during the off season.

Three cabins are being rented for the first time in 2001 - Roberts, Bassam, and Lake Isabel. As of August, they have been rented for 130 nights which represents an occupancy rate of 24%. Current revenue generated is \$9,600 with 90% or \$8,640 available to the PSICC and the remainder going to the Regional Office. They are available for rent through the Campground Reservation System and advertising of the cabins has been primarily through this service. The cabins are also listed on the PSICC website.

With this project, the PSICC expects to attract new and current Forest visitors, as well as address changing demographics. New visitors could include history enthusiasts, and railroad or mining buffs. Another group of potential guests include people uncomfortable with tent camping or simply people who want to experience the outdoors in a more solitary experience, away from a developed campground. The recreating public is becoming older, more educated, with increasing leisure time. The interpretive and educational aspects of the sites address all of these user characteristics. Any of the sites will allow visitors to enjoy the naturalness of their settings, the many nearby recreation activities and immerse themselves in the history of Colorado.

INTERPRETIVE OVERVIEW

Interpretive Goals

The overall purpose of interpretation is:

- To assist the visitor in developing a keener awareness, appreciation, and understanding of what they are viewing or experiencing.
- To accomplish management goals; to encourage thoughtful use and to minimize human impact.
- To encourage an understanding of Forest Service goals and objectives.

Interpretive goals focus on management and what the FS can do for the visitor. The primary purpose of this interpretive effort is to foster, through written media and personal services, conservation values. The effort will help develop appreciation and support for USFS resource management. The following interpretive goals are established:

1. To provide orientation and information on each rental cabin including its cultural and historic significance.
2. To provide a safe, convenient, and enjoyable stay at the HCR.

3. To enhance the understanding of the role of human use in shaping the past and present local landscape and environment and provide a context for understanding contemporary landscapes and natural resource issues.
4. To improve understanding of the role of the national forest mission in the preservation of these historic sites including the HCR.
5. To enhance the visitor's experience through a coordinated consistent presentation within the HCR.
6. To encourage better awareness and appreciation of the HCR and other historic resources that results in a stewardship ethic to sustain and protect the site.
7. To foster partnerships that strengthen ties to communities and other local historic preservation initiatives that improve interpretive services, cost effectiveness and efficiency, and provides message consistency.
8. To provide a connection to the land to those people that are becoming increasingly disconnected from it.

Interpretive Objectives

The objectives are measurable and help managers determine if they are successful at accomplishing the goals of the plan. These help guide the development of the interpretive plan and program and will be used in evaluating the final product upon completion and accomplishment. The objectives are what we want visitors to know, feel and do while visiting the PSICC. The Interpretive Objectives are:

1. The majority of visitors will treat the rental cabins with respect and stewardship and appreciate the preservation of historic sites.
2. The majority of visitors will understand how to use the historic components of the cabins in order to have an enjoyable stay.
3. The majority of visitors will understand how historical events have led to the present environment of the particular HCR.
4. The majority of visitors will understand the Forest Service role in preserving the historic cabin and other historic resources.
5. The majority of visitors will understand that the HCR is part of the National Forest mission for multiple use.
6. The majority of visitors will leave the cabin with a new respect for pioneer users of the forest and their livelihoods.

Statements of Significance

These messages capture the distinctiveness and special nature of the HCRs within the PSICC that are important to forest users.

Like people of today, pioneer Americans were drawn to the Forests and Grasslands for the abundant natural resources and scenic beauty. Topics to be discussed include: mining, logging, ranching, railroading, and management of public lands.

Specific cabins exemplify many events that occurred throughout the West from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s.

The PSICC is a heavily visited area in the Rocky Mountain region, and a Gateway to the Rockies, therefore is a prime location to provide education and recreation information to visitors for whom this may be the only area that they visit. Topics include: activities, ethics, safety rules, regulations, and nationally designated areas.

Visitors can drive on several scenic byways, experience wilderness, and capture the essence of the pioneer West while visiting the PSICC.

The PSICC provides an opportunity to educate visitors about the sustainability of natural and cultural resources, conservation ethics and the PSICC's responsibility to manage multiple uses such as recreation, timber, fish and wildlife, and watersheds, for future generations using the best practices that research and professional experience provide.

The 100-year history of the National Forest System is captured at several of the cabins where early forest rangers through modern work crews have based their operations.

Interpretive Theme Statement

From the interpretive goals, objectives and the statements of significance, interpretive themes for PSICC are established. These themes capture the essence and importance of the ideas, concepts, and features that emerged from the review of all the natural and cultural resources. Using themes in interpretive planning provides focus, continuity, and meaning to the interpretation.

A central theme helps tie together the information and ideas that are presented to visitors. The theme is the principle message about the topic that we want to get across to our audiences. Themes are the plot to the movie, the moral of the story. They answer the question, "So what?" or

“What’s the big deal?” They can be expressed in complete sentences, as opposed to topics that are general categories of ideas. The theme provides the foundation for all presentations, no matter what media is used. The central theme is:

The variety of human use and occupation of the Rocky Mountain forests and grasslands reveal man’s adaptability to the natural environment.

Sub–Themes

Sub, or supporting themes relate to and support the central theme. The sub-themes are linked specifically to certain resources and can be the focus for telling the story of those resources at appropriate sites.

The Colorado Mining Boom in the High Country

(Roberts Cabin, Rockdale)

Early discoveries of gold and other minerals, led to the need for lumber for mine props and railroad ties; and grazing lands for cattle to support the mining industry and eventual settlement of the region.

Topics include placer mining, lives and homes of the miners, railroads and their relationships to the mining industry and log cabin construction.

Public Land Use Management

(Bassam Guard Station, Lake Isabel)

From the early day forest ranger to modern work crews, the evolution of the USFS mission and responsibilities is demonstrated including the CCC, an economic stimulus program resulting from the Depression which benefited early development of the PSICC through a variety of forest, grazing, wildlife, and recreation programs.

Topics include Civilian Conservation Corps, early day Forest Rangers, life in the Forest Service today.

Playgrounds for the Nation

(Geneva Ski Cabin, Dexter)

The late 1800s and early 1900s brought about more time for leisure and an emphasis on promoting recreation on the National Forests for health, rest, and enjoyment which included the development of campgrounds, cabins, comfort stations, summer home sites, hiking trails, and eventually included the development of ski areas.

Topics include early day resorts, and the development of the ski industry in Colorado.

Frontier Homesteading and Ranching

Rourke, Mingus, Zinn, Woods, Hutchinson-Barnett

Early settlement in the region is characterized by many of the cabins found throughout the PSICC and depict the challenges and hardships that faced many early pioneers - the backbone of the frontier.

Topics include early day homesteading, ranching, use of cow camps, cabin construction techniques, irrigation and the importance of water.

RECOMMENDED INTERPRETATION

Off-site Interpretive Opportunities:

Orientation/Information Sites

District offices, web page:

Develop informational handout for each cabin with consistent design elements that can be downloaded from the web.

Develop consistent web page for each HRC.

Employ a unified design for cabin exhibits throughout the PSICC.

Develop rack card that lists all the cabins, logo, and reservation information to be used at chambers, front offices, Welcome Centers, etc.

Wayside Exhibits:

Develop wayside exhibits for cabins as appropriate when located on a accessible, highly used route or scenic byway. Provide historic cabin information to the casual visitor.

(Mingus/Roberts)

Electronic Media

The PSICC's Worldwide Web site represents a very significant tool for reaching the visiting and non-visiting public. Not only can it prepare people for their visit through orientation and information, but it can provide a vicarious experience for people who might never have an opportunity to visit the PSICC. Make the current site more user friendly and easier to locate the cabins and develop a consistent image for the cabin site.

Orientation and trip planning represents a vital function of the site.

Provide a map and directions to the site, etc. Create links to WWW sites of partners and adjacent resources. Include basic information in other

languages used by international visitors coming to the region. Provide current information on road and utility construction, tour schedules, special programs/events, and weather conditions as they relate to cabin rentals.

The site currently includes a link to the reservation system for cabin rentals.

The site offers unlimited opportunities to provide the public with additional information about the forest. It should highlight many of the interpretive opportunities and can include interpretive information on the natural and cultural resources on the PSICC.

On-site Interpretive Media:

Wall hangings: historic photos in barnwood frames, historic maps, historic Forest Service/Fire posters, CCC interpretive exhibit.

Scrapbooks: historic news articles/photos of time

Knot board - hands on practice for Ranger test

Rustic glass case with minor artifacts from site.

Copies of area historic books and nature guides for leisure reading.

Summary of Proposed Interpretation and Cost Estimates

The cost estimates that follow for the development of interpretive exhibits for the Historic Cabin Rentals include the following specific items as a part of the total:

- Design of HCR logo
- Cover Design for Scrapbook, User Guide, Guestbook, and Recreation Guide
- Template in Microsoft Word for use by Districts in developing additional materials as needed
- Design template for HCR web page using HCR logo
- Design of Welcome/User Info exterior sign for each cabin
- Design of Rack card that lists cabins for rent with logo for distribution at Welcome Centers, Chambers, etc.
- Overhead and contract preparation and administration.

Proposed Interpretation - Summary

1. Roberts Cabin				
Exhibit	Quantity/Size	Design Cost	Fabrication	Total Cost
Historic Mining	1-36"x24" low profile	\$2,000	\$ 500	
Historic Photos	4 - 8" x 10", framed		\$ 500	
Cabinet for artifacts	1 - 24" x 36"		\$ 500	
Historic Scrapbook	1 - 9" x 12"	\$2,000	\$ 500	
Total Cost		\$4,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
2. Bassam Cabin				
Exhibit	Quantity/Size	Design Cost	Fabrication	Total Cost
Fire Tool Exhibit	Artifacts	\$ 300	\$ 200	
Historic Photos	About 10	\$ 100	\$ 650	
Knot Board	24" x 24"	\$ 100	\$ 150	
Historic Scrapbook	1 - 9" x 12"	\$2,000	\$ 500	
Total Cost		\$2,500	\$1,500	\$4,000
3. Lake Isabel				
Exhibit	Quantity/Size	Design Cost	Fabrication	Total Cost
FS & CCC	1-36"x24" interior wall	\$ 750	\$ 250	
Historic Photos	4 - 8" x 10", framed		\$ 500	
Historic Scrapbook	1 - 9" x 12"	\$2,000	\$ 500	
Total Cost		\$2,750	\$1,250	\$4,000
4. Mingus Cabin				
Exhibit	Quantity/Size	Design Cost	Fabrication	Total Cost
Early Ranching	1-36"x24" low profile	\$1,000	\$ 500	
Historic Photos	4 - 8" x 10", framed		\$ 500	
Cabinet for artifacts	1 - 24" x 36"		\$ 500	
Historic Scrapbook	1 - 9" x 12"	\$2,000	\$ 500	
Total Cost		\$3,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
TOTAL COSTS:		\$12,250	\$6,750	\$19,000

MARKETING RECOMMENDATIONS

The following marketing recommendations are proposed to fully implement the interpretive plan. Visitors need to be aware of the cabin rental opportunity and this final step in the plan is essential to accomplishing the goals. Many of the recommendations can be implemented with the help and funding of partners or grants. Others can be implemented as a part of normal business on the forest. Still others can be implemented as the forest revises or expands current opportunities, such as the Forest Map or website.

- 🏠 Develop a seasonal newspaper with partners and distribute throughout the region listing cabins to rent.
- 🏠 Prepare a rack card for wide distribution throughout the region and along Interstate travel corridors that list the rental cabins. List locations.
- 🏠 Develop a mailing list to provide up-to-date information, especially operational changes or special events, to television stations, newspapers, hotels, and motels, private campgrounds, etc.
- 🏠 Provide rental cabin information at hospitality trainings with chambers, tourism regions, etc.
- 🏠 Install highway signs to inform drivers of each approaching pullout that has a wayside exhibit if appropriate.
- 🏠 Install highway signs that inform drivers of each approaching cabin so renters are assured they are in the vicinity.
- 🏠 Develop an interactive World-wide-web site with partners to provide orientation and information on the rental cabins.
- 🏠 Incorporate the locations of the cabins on the Forest maps.
- 🏠 Promote these cabins on-line and through tear-off regional maps.
- 🏠 Write feature articles on the cabins for local and regional publications and include in tourism pieces.

INTERPRETIVE PLANNING DATA

Interpretive planning data includes themes, objectives, graphic needs, design notes particular to the site, and recommendations for number/size of exhibits, any site work needed and general cost estimates. They also include in this case, titles and preliminary text. This detailed data can be used in the next phase of exhibit planning. See Appendix B for this site specific data.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

These guidelines should be used to define standards and maintain consistency in development of interpretive media. Guidelines should be adhered to throughout media development phases.

Adherence to high quality design standards is critical to the success of interpretive media. Visitors are more inclined to read information and abide by forest regulations if presented clearly, aesthetically and professionally.

1. All exterior sign exhibits should be fabricated of a similar material using computer digitized printing within high-pressure laminate or fiberglass embedment.
2. All interpretive media should blend harmoniously with the interior and exterior environment, using design elements consistent with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), local resources, and limit impacts to cultural and natural resources.
3. Interpretive media must strictly adhere to federal accessibility standards. Written material should be available in large print and audio format.
4. Graphics for all media should be consistent, i.e., produced by the same artist and graphic designer, and follow a design theme including a logo.
5. All interior and exterior exhibits should be designed to be easy to use and maintain, and be vandal resistant.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING STRATEGIES

While evaluation of any program is a critical factor to its ongoing success, it is often the most over looked component. Evaluation of exhibits, programs or any interpretive/educational endeavor provides a venue for restructuring effective program planning and opportunity for growth. The methods suggested below provide several alternatives for evaluation and can be adapted to use for diverse projects and programs.

The primary method recommended for the cabins is to have the visitors fill out an evaluation form that includes specific reference to the interpretive elements of their visit. This is described in more detail under Obtrusive methods - Self Report. This method can be incorporated in the current evaluation form in Appendix B.

The important thing to keep in mind when evaluating and choosing different data collection methods is that the assessment of behavior, mood, or response to environmental conditions should be as unobtrusive as possible. The following are some methods employed by environmental psychologists to study and record visitors responses to stimuli.

Unobtrusive Methods

The goal is to apply measurement techniques that address the questions you are asking, while disturbing the setting as little as possible, allowing you to study real people in real environments. The disadvantage of using this technique is that it may entail an invasion of privacy and a lack of informed consent on the visitor's part.

1. **Observational Techniques** - The best way to do this is to watch others and report their behavior and interactions in the setting by using recorded narratives, video cameras, photography, or written notes. The advantage to this method is the recorded results can be reviewed at a later date when more time is available to log the data. Spreadsheets can be developed to log the number of occurrences of certain behaviors and what provoked them (whether positive or negative).
2. **Behavior Mapping** - This technique requires you to accurately record visitors actions in a particular place at a specific time. The area is defined and a coded form is filled out stating what happened and where. Different variables can include the time of day, age groups observed, backgrounds of visitors, utilization of equipment and facilities, etc. This technique can be used to predict the success or failure of new facilities.

3. **Accretion** - This data collection method measures the physical evidence removed or left behind at a specific location. It can be a mapping of trails formed by visitors when no trails are present (for future planning of trail locations), it can be recycling drop-off stations (or brochure recycling), trash or litter left behind, nose and hand prints on glass exhibits, or numerous other physical remnants of visitors.

Obtrusive Methods

The most obvious and sometimes accurate way of measuring visitors moods, thoughts, attitudes and behavior is to directly ask what they are thinking, how they feel, and what they would like to see or feel at a specific location.

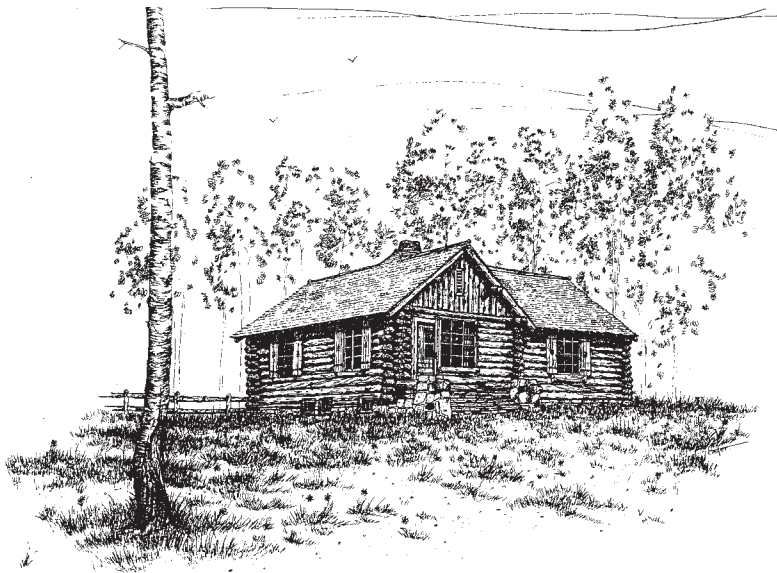
1. ***Self-report measures*** - This method involves interviews on-site or mail-back questionnaires given to them when they leave the site.
 - a. **Questionnaires** - The advantage to this method is that if given to the visitor upon leaving the site, it can be mailed back anonymously, or filled out at the end of the visit and dropped anonymously in a collection spot. It can also be given to a large group at one time, with little skill needed to perform the data collection. The disadvantage is that an interviewer is not available to answer questions once the questionnaire has left the site, and visitors may interpret the questions inaccurately.
 - b. **Interviews** - This can be given only to a few people at a time since it is an individual process. The interviewer may need some level of skill in interpreting the visitor's response and in answering their questions.
2. ***Cognitive Mapping*** - This exercise can be fun and challenging. The visitor is asked to draw a map in one minute showing the site they just visited. This is done in a red pencil. Then they are given another color pencil to continue the map for another minute, and so on. Once five minutes is up, they are done. The map shows the importance of certain areas to them, and lists them in order of value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary method recommended for the cabins is to have the visitors fill out an evaluation form that includes specific reference to the interpretive elements of their visit. This is described in more detail above under Obtrusive methods - Self Report. This method can be incorporated in the current evaluation form in Appendix D.

Exhibits and printed materials may be evaluated in the planning stage, or after completion by using one or a combination of the following methods:

- Observe exhibit readers noting amount of time spent at exhibit
- Evaluate exhibit based upon interaction with various sense, abilities and cognitive levels (see Evaluation Form in *Appendix E*)
- Observe and record visitor interest at exhibit sites by fingerprints, footprints, and cigarette butts. Look for results of depreciate behavior and increase or decrease in vandalism/graffiti, etc.
- Solicit visitor comments with questionnaire they fill out in the cabin



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**Recommend that copies of these books (at a minimum) are available for your staff to use.*

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Need list of historical references.

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Appendix A

Descriptions of Historic Cabins

Roberts Cabin

Roberts is a rustic two story log cabin with one room on each floor. The cabin site is adjacent to the historic route of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad, now the auto road to the summit of Boreas Pass. The cabin dates to the 1880s and because of its association with the mining era and railroad, it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The cabin is convenient to Breckenridge, Como (famed for railroad history) and the Colorado Trail. Winter recreation opportunities are plentiful, however, the cabin is closed from December through April. The cabin will accommodate eight people indoors. A wood stove, firewood, outhouse and outdoor fire ring are provided.

Bassam Guard Station

Bassam is one of the original back country guard stations on the Salida Ranger District. Construction and use as an administrative site dates from 1920 to 1970. The cabin is 15 miles from Salida. It provides great opportunity for enjoyment in the secluded back country of the Aspen Ridge Area. The site provides a cabin with propane lights and propane stove, corral, stock trough, outhouse, picnic tables, group fire ring and water well. The cabin sleeps two indoors and up to six people in tents.

Lake Isabel Cabin

This cabin is part of the Lake Isabel Work Center, on the San Carlos Ranger District. The work center dates to the CCC era, but the cabin was constructed in the 1950s. This is a surplus administrative site. The cabin is convenient to the towns of Rye and San Isabel. The cabin would be an excellent base for fishing at nearby Lake Isabel, as well as hiking and other attractions along the Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway. The hiking trails provide snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter. Potable water, indoor plumbing, laundry facilities, heat, a fireplace, and electricity are available. A picnic table and fire ring are located outside. The cabin accommodates six people in bunkbeds, and tenting on site is allowed.

Mingus Homestead

Mingus is a surviving, historic attempt to develop a ranching homestead in the Colorado High Country. The cabin and associated structures date to 1908 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is adjacent to Highway 165, approximately 20 miles from Rye, Colorado. Stream and lake fishing, hiking trails, and the Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway are all nearby activities. Cross country skiing and snowmobiling trails are available in the winter. The cabin sleeps eight indoors. A barn, corral, and outhouse is also available.

Future Sites:

Rockdale Camp

The Rockdale site is actually 4-one room cabins that during the 1930s and 40s were quarters for miners at the Crescent Mine, and early molybdenum mine. The camp is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. The site is located in historic Clear Creek Canyon, which has preserved ghost towns dating to the 1880s Leadville Silver Boom. The site is convenient to trout streams, the Colorado and Continental Divide Trails and numerous 14'ers, the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness and other nearby historic mining camps. The cabins will be restored two at a time and will have the potential to be rented individually or as a group site. When fully developed, two outhouses and a group fire ring will be provided.

Rourke Ranch

The ranch is located in Picketwire Canyon, Comanche National Grassland, and area famed for its dinosaur tracks and prehistoric rock art. A nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is pending. Eugene Rourke first settled the site, adjacent to the Purgatory River in 1904, but the building are 1920 and 1920s vintage. The site is very remote, accessible only a primitive road, foot, mountain bike or horseback. It is a 16 mile roundtrip from the nearest trailhead. Nature in its purest, including nightly coyote serenades, can be enjoyed. Initial plans are to restore the bunkhouse to accommodate ten overnight guests. An outhouse has been installed.

Hutchinson-Barnett Cow Camp

The camp is located near the summit of Marshall Pass, on the Salida Ranger District. It is accessible via a gravel road which was once the Rio Grande Railroad grade. The camp, located about 25 miles west of Salida, was originally a seasonal residence for cowboys working the Hutchinson Ranch. Local activities for visitors include historic Marshall Pass, hiking the CDNST and stream fishing. Winter activities are also plentiful. The proposal for the cabin allows for four visitors and tents are allowed. A outhouse will be provided in the future.

Woods Cabin

This cabin is also on the Salida Ranger District, near the summit of Marshall Pass. The rustic one room cabin was initially used by cowboys riding summer range for the nearby ranches in the 1920s and 1930s. Nearby attractions include auto touring, hiking, and lake or stream fishing. The cabin is about 20 miles from Salida and Poncha Springs. The proposal has a capacity of four visitors. An outhouse will be provided in the future.

Appendix B

Interpretive Inventory Forms

INTERPRETIVE INVENTORY FORMS**Proposed Interpretation****Interpretive Media Information for the Historic Cabins on the Pike NF**

1. Roberts Cabin.....South Park**Interpretive Media:** Exterior: One panel, low profile exhibit

Interior: Artifacts, historic photos, scrapbook, gold pan

Audience: Couples, Families**Topic:** Gold Mining**Title:** The Tarryall Gold Boom**Theme:**

1. The variety of human use and occupation of the Rocky Mountain forests and adjacent grasslands, reveal man's adaptability to the natural environment.
2. Early discoveries of gold and other minerals, led to the need for lumber for mine props and railroad ties; and grazing lands for cattle, to support the mining industry and eventual settlement of the region.

Objectives: As a result of experiencing this cabin, visitors will:

1. treat the rental cabins with respect and stewardship and appreciate the preservation of historic sites.
2. understand how to use the historic components of the cabins in order to have an enjoyable stay.
3. understand how historical events have led to the present environment adjacent to the particular HCR.
4. understand the Forest Service role in preserving the historic cabin and other historic resources
5. understand that the HCR is part of the National Forest mission for multiple use.
6. learn about the historic use of this cabin and leave with a new respect and a feeling of awe for the pioneer users of the forest and their livelihoods.

List of Needs:

Historic photographs of the cabin, the Tarryall Mining operations, the DSP&P
 Any early artwork from the era
 Artifacts from the cabin or area
 Old rustic glass wall cabinet for artifacts
 Historic information of occupants, builders

Photos of reconstruction of cabin

Interpretive Media –Roberts Cabin.....South Park (cont.)

Notes/Design Instructions: 1 panel – Fiberglass or high pressure laminate product exterior sign. Interior – artifacts as above. Create a scrapbook of early articles and photos describing the era and events of the time. Reproduce photos and hang on east and west walls. Include a few historic books of the area, or reference where they can be purchased. Include a gold pan and instructions how and where to pan for gold. (i.e. along the Gold Dust Trail.)

Location: Exterior exhibit along the road, and interior exhibits within the cabin.

Number and Size of Signs to Address Topic: One panel 24” x 36” low profile frame from Boreas project. Panel focuses on historic use of cabin and mining. Historic photos inside.

Cost Estimate for Design/Art/Text/fabrication:

\$2,500/sign x 1 signs =	\$2,500
Photo duplicating and frames for wall -	\$ 500
Cabinet for wall for artifacts -	\$ 500
Scrapbook research/development/fabrication -	\$2,500

Total Cost:	\$6,000
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(Frame from Boreas project.)

INTERPRETIVE INVENTORY FORMS**Proposed Interpretation****Interpretive Media Information for the Historic Cabins on the Pike NF**

2. Basaam Cabin.....Salida

Interpretive Media: Barn: Historic Fire Tools display, historic photos/posters for the walls of the cabin and bunkhouse, scrapbook

Audience: Families with youth

Topic: Public Land Use Management

Title: A Day in the Life of a Ranger

Theme:

1. The variety of human use and occupation of the Rocky Mountain forests and adjacent grasslands, reveal man's adaptability to the natural environment.
2. From the early day forest ranger to modern work crews, the evolution of the USFS mission and responsibilities is demonstrated.

Objectives: As a result of experiencing this cabin, the majority of visitors will:

1. treat the rental cabins with respect and stewardship and appreciate the preservation of historic sites.
2. will understand how to use the historic components of the cabins in order to have an enjoyable stay.
3. will understand how historical events have led to the present environment adjacent to the particular HCR.
4. will understand the Forest Service role in preserving the historic cabin and other historic resources
5. will understand that the HCR is part of the National Forest mission for multiple use.
6. will learn about the historic use of this cabin and leave with a new respect and a feeling of awe for the pioneer users of the forest and their livelihoods.

List of Needs:

Historic photographs of the cabin, early day rangers, rangers at work

Any early artwork from the era

Artifacts from the cabin or area

Historic information of occupants, builders

Map of Forest

2 historic recreation posters

Forest Ranger Test

2 historic fire posters

Interpretive Media – Basaam Cabin.....Salida (cont.)

Notes/Design Instructions: Interior – photos/poster as above. Create a scrapbook of early articles and photos describing the era and events of the time. Utilize old ranger diary for material. Create a knotboard in-house for youth to practice knots for ranger test. Develop a display of historic fire tools in barn that can be viewed through window.

Location: Interior exhibits within the cabin and bunkhouse/barn.

Number and Size of Photos to Address Topic: Collage of historic ranger photos 18” x 24” matted and framed. Reproduce historic map 24” x 24”. Historic cabin photo 8” x 10” matted and framed in 11” X 14” barnwood frame. Bunkhouse: Reproduce 2 historic fire posters, 2 historic recreation posters, Forest Ranger Test, and Recruitment poster – (size to be determined – approximately 18” x 24”.) Frame in barnwood frames.

Fire Tool Exhibit in Barn	\$ 500
Knot Board, time and materials	\$ 250
Photo duplicating and poster duplication for wall, frames	\$ 750
Scrapbook development/fabrication	\$2,500

Total Cost:	\$4,000
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INTERPRETIVE INVENTORY FORMS**Proposed Interpretation****Interpretive Media Information for the Historic Cabins on the Pike NF**

3. Lake Isabel Cabin.....San Carlos

Interpretive Media: Interior: 1 – 24” x 36” panel telling CCC story, historic photos/posters, scrapbook

Audience: Families with children

Topic: Public Land Use Management

Title: Yesterday - Civilian Conservation Corps and
Today – A Work Center in Action

Theme:

1. The variety of human use and occupation of the Rocky Mountain forests and adjacent grasslands, reveal man’s adaptability to the natural environment.

Objectives: As a result of experiencing this cabin, the majority of visitors will:

1. treat the rental cabins with respect and stewardship and appreciate the preservation of historic sites.
2. will understand how to use the historic components of the cabins in order to have an enjoyable stay.
3. will understand how historical events (CCC) have led to the present environment adjacent to the particular HCR.
4. will understand the Forest Service role in preserving the historic cabin and other historic resources
5. will understand that the HCR is part of the National Forest mission for multiple use.
6. will learn about the historic use of this cabin and leave with a new respect and a feeling of awe for the CCC and understanding of forest workers today.

List of Needs:

Historic photographs of the CCC era
Any early artwork from the era
Historic information of occupants, builders of cabin
2 historic fire posters
2 historic recreation posters
Historic booklet on recreating on the San Isabel

Interpretive Media – Lake Isabel Cabin.....San Carlos (cont.)

Notes/Design Instructions: Interior – photos/posters/interpretive panel. Create a scrapbook of early articles and photos describing the CCC era with the final chapter including activities by the FS today – Life at a Work Center..

Location: Exterior exhibit along the road, and interior exhibits within the cabin.

Number and Size of Signs to Address Topic: One interior panel 24” x 36. Panel focuses on early CCC days and their accomplishments. Reproduce two historic fire posters and two historic recreation posters approximately 18” x 24”, barnwood frames.

Cost Estimate for Design/Art/Text/fabrication:

\$1,000/sign x 1 sign =	\$1,000
Photo duplicating and blow ups for wall, frames	\$ 500
Scrapbook development/fabrication	\$2,500

Total Cost:	\$4,000
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INTERPRETIVE INVENTORY FORMS**Proposed Interpretation****Interpretive Media Information for the Historic Cabins on the Pike NF**

4. Mingus Cabin.....San Carlos

Interpretive Media: Exterior: One panel, low profile exhibit
Interior: Artifacts in case, historic photos, scrapbook

Audience: Families with children

Topic: Ranching

Title: Homesteading and Ranching in the High Country

Theme:

1. The variety of human use and occupation of the Rocky Mountain forests and adjacent grasslands, reveal man's adaptability to the natural environment.
2. Early settlement in the region is characterized through many of the cabins found throughout the PSICC and depict the challenges and hardships that faced many early pioneers – the backbone of the frontier.

Objectives: As a result of experiencing this cabin, the majority of visitors will:

1. treat the rental cabins with respect and stewardship and appreciate the preservation of historic sites.
2. will understand how to use the historic components of the cabins in order to have an enjoyable stay.
3. will understand how historical events have led to the present environment adjacent to the particular HCR.
4. will understand the Forest Service role in preserving the historic cabin and other historic resources
5. will understand that the HCR is part of the National Forest mission for multiple use.
6. will learn about the historic use of this cabin and leave with a new respect and a feeling of awe for the pioneer users of the forest and their livelihoods.

List of Needs:

Historic photographs of the cabin, ranching, and occupants
Any early artwork from the era
Artifacts from the cabin or area

Interpretive Media – Mingusl Cabin.....San Carlos (cont.)

Notes/Design Instructions: 1 panel – Fiberglass or high pressure laminate product exterior sign. Interior – artifacts as above. Create a scrapbook of early articles and photos describing the era and events of the time. Duplicate photos and mat and frame in barnwood frames.

Location: Exterior exhibit along the road, and interior exhibits within the cabin.

Number and Size of Signs to Address Topic: One panel 24” x 36” low profile using existing frame. Panel focuses on the homestead and ranching. Cabin: Downstairs: 8” x 10” wedding photo matted and framed in 11” x 14” barnwood frame. Three additional family photos 8” x 10” matted and framed in 11” x 14” barnwood frame. Upstairs: Two 8” x 10” timbering photos matted and framed in 11” x 14” barnwood frame for South Room and 2 - 8” x 10” ranching photo matted and framed in 11” x 14” barnwood frame for North Room.

Cost Estimate for Design/Art/Text/fabrication:

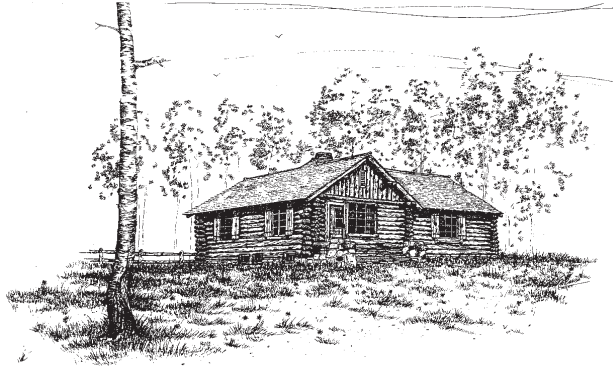
\$1,500/sign x 1 signs =	\$1,500
Photo duplicating and frames	\$ 500
Cabinet for wall for artifacts	\$ 500
Scrapbook development/fabrication	\$2,500

Total Cost:	\$5,000
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(Use existing frame.)

Appendix C

List of Photo and Poster Needs



List of Photo/Poster Needs

Roberts Cabin –

- 📌 1 historic photo to be located on west wall as enter the cabin
- 📌 2 historic photos to be located on the east wall by the sofa.
- 📌 Historic photos to be used on panel along Boreas road

Bassam –

- 📌 Reproduce historic map to be located on wall over bed.
- 📌 1 historic cabin photo on left wall as enter the cabin over the bureau.
- 📌 Collage of historic photos of early day rangers on same wall next to map
- 📌 Bunkhouse: Reproduce 2 historic fire posters
 - Reproduce Forest Ranger Test
 - Reproduce 2 historic recreation posters

Mingus –

- 📌 Downstairs (Total of 4 photos)
 - Wedding photo
 - Family photos
- 📌 Upstairs (Total of 4 photos)
 - 2 photos of timbering in south room
 - 2 photos of ranching in north room

Historic photos and artwork from previous sign for possible use in new interpretive exhibit for overlook area.

Lake Isabel –

- 📌 CCC photos for 24” x 36” interpretive panel to be mounted on wall in living room
- 📌 Reproduce 2 historic fire posters and 2 historic recreation posters for walls in bedrooms/living room.

Appendix D

Cabin Evaluation Form

CUSTOMER COMMENTS
PSICC CABIN RENTAL PROGRAM

Name of Cabin

Dates of Use

Was the cabin ready for your arrival? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you learn about this opportunity?

What did you like most about your stay?

What can the Forest Service do or provide to make this a better experience?

Are there any maintenance items or repairs needed?

Was the historic information interesting? Which did you find the most interesting?

Additional comments?

Please take a moment to fill out this form after your visit. You can either leave it in the cabin or return it to the district office address on your confirmation letter.

Thank you for your comments.

Appendix E

Exhibit Evaluation Form

This list may be of assistance in identifying the strong and weak points of installed wayside exhibits. In the blanks provided, answer questions "yes" or "no". A separate sheet should be completed for each exhibit being evaluated.

WAYSIDE EXHIBIT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name and location of exhibit: _____

CONTENT

1. _____ Is the **topic** interesting, significant and appropriate?
2. _____ Is this a **logical** location for this subject?
3. _____ Is the exhibit **content** accurate?
4. _____ Are sentences and paragraphs **clear, concise and correct**?
5. _____ Are the **graphics** effective?
6. _____ Does the panel contain the right amount of **information**?
7. _____ Does the exhibit accomplish the **purpose** stated in the exhibit plan?
8. _____ Is the exhibit consistent with the **theme, goals and objectives** of the interpretive plan?

EXHIBIT DESIGN

1. _____ Is there a good **balance** of text and graphics?
2. _____ Are the panel **colors** pleasing and easy on the eyes?
3. _____ Does the **arrangement** of text and graphics aid comprehension?
4. _____ Is the **type** legible and readable?
5. _____ Are **captions** complete and properly placed?
6. _____ Is the panel **size and shape** appropriate for the subject?
7. _____ Are panel and base **materials** appropriate for the site?

INSTALLATIONS/MAINTENANCE

1. _____ Was the exhibit installed so as to be **unobtrusive** to natural resources?
2. _____ Is there a **level, hard-surfaced exhibit pad** of adequate size?
3. _____ Is the site **accessible** to visitors, including the mobility - impaired?
4. _____ Is the exhibit **plumb, level, and solidly anchored**?
6. _____ Is the exhibit **clean** and in **good condition**?
7. _____ Has the **vista** from the exhibit site been properly maintained?

COMMENTS

Adapted from the Wayside Exhibit Evaluation Checklist of Guidelines for Planning, Designing and Producing Wayside Exhibits, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center, Division of Wayside Exhibits, 1992.

Appendix F

Helpful Hints for Interpretive Media Design

Helpful Hints for Interpretive Media Design

Following are some basic guidelines and helpful hints for the preparation and design of interpretive media:

Captions

Captions for graphics can be used to meet learning objectives and capture the theme; some visitors look only at graphics so the graphic and its caption should be a learning opportunity on its own.

Color and Contrast

Use contrasting colors for text and background for ease of reading.

Corporate Image

Incorporate Forest name, shield, FS Mission – Caring for the Land and Serving People and perhaps a forest “look” – i.e. representative pine branch that appears on all signs, brochures, etc. (See samples of such signs on website.)

Layout/Design

In general, signs should contain 1/3 graphics, 1/3 text, and 1/3 blank space.

Margins

Margins on text should be flush on the left side and ragged on the right.

Mounting Height

A mounting height of 24 to 30 inches with a 30 to 45 degree angle toward the viewers will be accessible to most visitors.

Site Compatibility

Make sure the sign is compatible with the site and ROS classification as far as color, size, frame, etc. It should enhance the site, not detract from it.

Simplicity

The main body of text should be no more than two paragraphs of three or four short sentences. Keep text to 150. (Up to 300 words maximum if using captions and smaller fonts (18) for secondary text or captions.)

Text

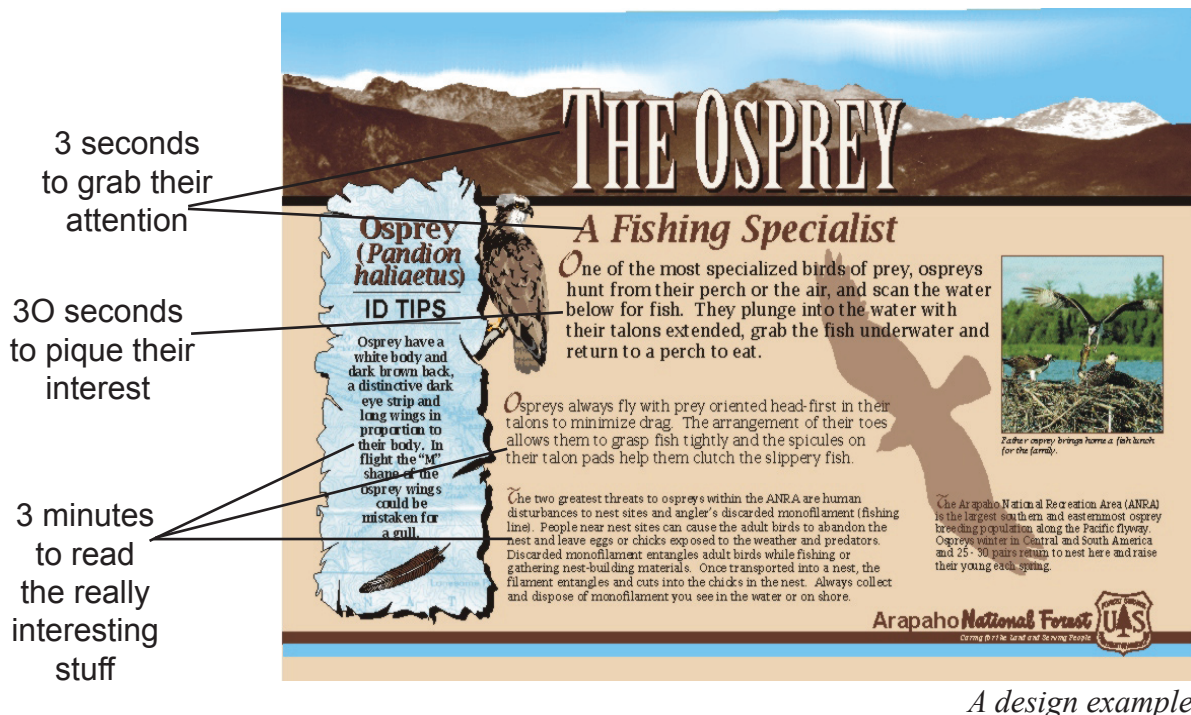
The text should be written with the “3-30-3” rule in mind. You have 3 seconds to hook the visitor, 30 seconds if they are hooked, and 3 minutes if they are very interested. A sign can be designed and written so that it contains three levels of text with each level conveying a feeling of the theme, thus providing all visitors with an interpretive opportunity. For example, a short title at the top of a sign might be the only text some visitors read, so it is important the learning objectives for the site be met to some degree even at the 3 second timeframe. I.e. National Forests – An American Legacy – followed by subheadings – Many Uses, Many People, Many Values, A Balancing Act.

Titles

The titles of a sign or brochure should be a statement of a theme. For example, “Salvaging Blowdown – A **T**reemendous Renewable Resource” sets the stage for talking about how trees are a renewable resource.

Typeface

Use simple serif typeface or sans serif, upper and lower case, with a minimum 18 point type size on signs. Titles: 72 – 60 point, Subtitles: 48 – 40 point, Body Text – 24 point, Captions: 18 point. (Complies with suggested sizes for visually impaired as per National Park Service Recommendations.)



These are just a few of the hints for designing interpretive media. The following resources listed below go into more detail:

Design Resources

Interpretation of Cultural and Natural Resources, by Douglas M. Knudson, Ted T. Cable, and Larry Beck, Venture Publishing, Inc., State College, PA. (814) 234-4561

Interpretation for the 21st Century – Fifteen Guiding Principles for Interpreting Nature and Culture, by Larry Beck and Ted Cable, Sagamore Publishing, Champaign, IL

Sign, Trails, and Wayside Exhibits Connecting People and Places, by Suzanne Trapp, Michael Gross and Ron Zimmerman, College of Natural Resources, UWSP, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 346-2076

The Graphics of Communication, A. Turnbull and R. Baird

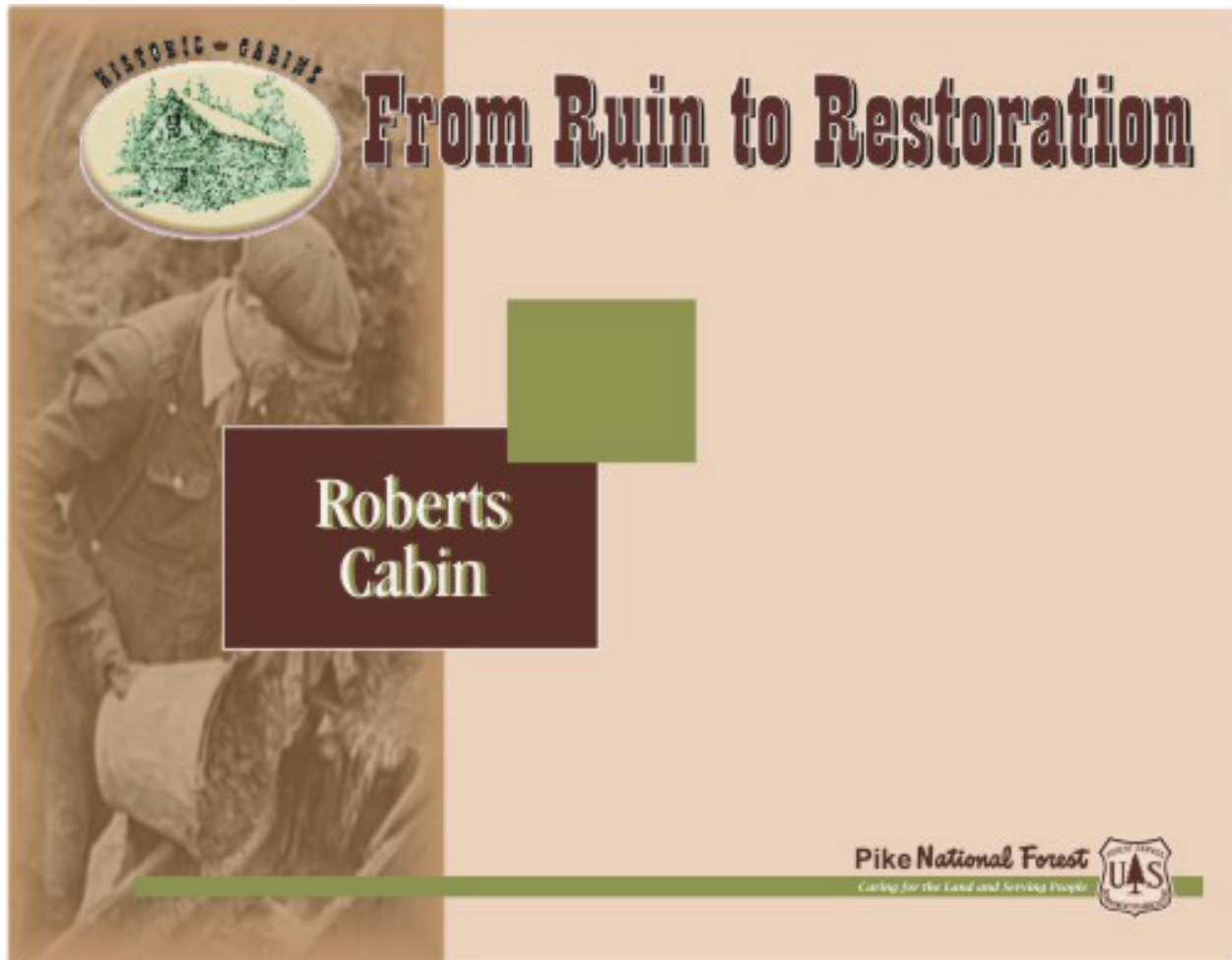
The Interpreter's Handbook, by Russell K. Grater, Southwest Parks and Monuments Association.

Environmental Interpretation – A Practical Guide for People with Big Ideas and Small Budgets, by Sam H. Ham, North American Press, Golden, Colorado

Graphic Standards for Landscape Architects, Austin, Dunbar, Hulverson, and Todd; Von Norstrand Reinhold Co., New York

Appendix G

Sign Samples



A sign sample horizontal orientation

A sign sample with vertical orientation

